

In the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the testing tests a subnetwork that does not include the user system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein if the testing fails to produce a result above the criteria, a default multicast protocol is implemented.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of Claim 8, wherein the testing component tests a subnetwork that does not include the user system.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of Claim 8, wherein if the testing component fails to produce a result above the criteria, a default multicast protocol is implemented.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving over a public data network a multicast signal at a an end user system coupled to the public data network, the end user system performing the method comprising:

determining if a request to receive the mulitcast signal has occurred;

testing a subnetwork for a first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if a request to receive the mulitcast signal was determined to have occurred;

implementing the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if the result of the test includes a received message indicating the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing

protocol is one of a protocol capable of being used or presently being used and the received message meets a preset criteria;

testing the subnetwork for a subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if the result of the test for the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol includes one of the received message indicating the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol is not one of a routing protocol capable of being used or is not presently being used, or the received message fails to meet the preset criteria; and

implementing the subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if the result of the test for the subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol includes a received message indicating the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol is one of a routing protocol capable of being used or presently being used and the received message meets the preset criteria; and

repeating testing a subnetwork for a subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol and implementing the subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, until the result of the test includes a received message indicating the subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol is one of a routing protocol capable of being used or is presently being used and the received message meets the preset criteria.

8. (Currently Amended) An ~~apparatus~~ end user system for receiving at a public data network a multicast signal coupled to the public data network, the ~~apparatus~~ end user system comprising:

memory (60) for storing a plurality of multicast protocols;

a user interface (58) for allowing a user to request a multicast signal from a source coupled to the public data network; and

a processor (56) for communicating with the public data network, the processor comprising:

- a determining component for determining if a request for a multicast join has occurred;
- a testing component for testing a subnetwork for a first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if it a request for a multicast join was determined to have occurred; and
- a multicast component for implementing the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if the result of the test includes a received message indicating the first multicasting routing protocol is one of a routing protocol capable of being used or presently being used and the received message meets a preset criteria;

wherein the testing component tests the subnetwork for a subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, if the result of the test for the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol includes one of the received message indicating the first ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol is not one of a routing protocol capable of being used or is not presently being used, or the received message fails to meet the preset criteria, the processor repeats testing a subnetwork for a subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol and implementing the subsequent ~~multicasting~~ multicast routing protocol, until the result of the test is above the criteria.